



DURACK SCHOOL

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

Durack School aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students. Food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental ingestion of foods can be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents, and doctors to minimise risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students.

We aim to implement practices which keep students who have food allergies safe without unnecessarily isolating or excluding them from school activities or creating an unnecessarily restrictive school environment. As well as minimising the risk of accidental ingestion of the food a particular child needs to avoid, a key component of this Food Allergy Awareness Policy is to ensure optimal education of school staff about recognising and responding to a child having an allergic reaction.

We are an Allergy Aware School.

Roles and Responsibilities	
Parents / Carers	Food Allergic Students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the school of the child's allergies on enrolment or at time of diagnosis. • Provide 2x adrenaline auto-injectors (one for office / one for classroom). • Provide up to date emergency contact information. • Provide written medical documentation, instructions and medications as directed by a physician (qualified allergist or other doctor with specialist knowledge in food allergy). • Provide appropriate Australian Society of Clinical Immunology Allergy (ASCIA), Food Allergy Action Plans including a coloured photo of the child – (plan to be no more than 18mths old). • Work with the school Inclusion team to construct a Health Care Plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school day as well as during school excursions. • Ensure medications are labelled and replaced after use or before expiration. • Educate the child in the self-management of their food allergy including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>safe and unsafe foods</i> ○ <i>strategies for avoiding ingestion of unsafe foods</i> ○ <i>symptoms of allergic reactions</i> ○ <i>how and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy related problem</i> ○ <i>how to read food labels (age appropriate)</i> • Communicate changes to the child's allergies / needs and updates provided by medical practitioners to the school core team as soon as practical . • Review the Health Care Plan with the school core team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annually (at the beginning of each school year) - after a reaction has occurred - upon updates from medical practitioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not trade food with others and should only eat food organised by their parent / carer. • Students should not accept food offered from peers • Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain the food(s) they are meant to avoid. • Should be encouraged to be assertive (based on their developmental level) about the food(s) they are avoiding by informing peers, teachers and friends. • Students should report circumstances where they felt unsafe with regard to their food allergy or report intimidating or threatening behaviour within the school to their teacher and parents. • Should notify an adult immediately if they feel the symptoms of an allergic reaction or if they eat something they believe may contain the food(s) to which they are allergic. • Students should know the location of their medication and based on their developmental level be able to articulate their needs / allergies with others • Students should know the procedures for seeking first aid assistance based on their symptoms..

Roles and Responsibilities (cont.)

<i>School Core Team</i>	<i>Teachers / School Staff</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with parents/carers to design and implement the prevention plan. The core team to include the class teacher, Student Support Teacher and staff designated to administer medications. • Ensure that the student's Health Care Plan and Australian Society of Clinical Immunology (ASCIA) Allergy Food Allergy Action Plans are completed and updated as required. • Ensure that medications (including adrenaline auto-injectors) are in date, appropriately stored and that an emergency kit is available. • Medications are to be kept in an easily accessible secure, but not locked, location central to designated school personnel out of direct sunlight and heat. • Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medications during the school day regardless of time or location. • Follow emergency procedures during anaphylaxis episode including administration of medication and communicating with emergency services and parents. • Record all anaphylaxis emergencies in conjunction with the school incident reporting processes. • Ensure students with Anaphylaxis / Allergies are identifiable by all staff (School Central communication). • Ensure information about Anaphylaxis / Allergy students is consistent through SAMS / School Central / Action Plans / Health Care Plans / Relief teacher folders – and updated regularly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be knowledgeable about and follow applicable NT Department of Education and Training (DET) and Department of Health Policies and Procedures. • Completed appropriate training in awareness, management, recognition and emergency treatment (eg for ASCIA Anaphylaxis e-training). • Know the identity of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis and understand the food allergy, can recognise symptoms and know what to do in an emergency. • Follow information and procedures contained in the student's Health Care Plan, and ASCIA Action Plan. • Display ASCIA Action Plans in classrooms and in Sick Bay and provide these and Health Care plans to relief staff as part of the Relief Teacher Pack. • Store EpiPen and action plan above classroom teacher's desk attached to action plan in an unobscured position. • Know where medication or adrenaline auto-injector is located, whether it is carried by the student or stored in an agreed location. • Teach all students about food allergies, symptoms and prevention strategies i.e. not sharing food / placing food into the bin once finished / washing hands / seeking assistance if needed. • Include food allergic student in school activities. Discuss excursions, camps, food sharing / handling activities with parents / carers and decide on appropriate strategies for managing the food allergy. • Notify parents through class letter if there is a child with an anaphylaxis reaction in the class and what the allergen / trigger is.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years and /or in accordance with updated Guidelines of Students at Risk of Anaphylaxis – May 2020.

Date Ratified by Durack School Board: May 2024

Review Date: May 2026